



April 13, 2019

Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez
New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services
1450 Western Avenue
Albany, NY 12203-3526

Re: EKAWA LLC., 5622 Broadway, Bronx NY 10463

Dear Commissioner Gonzalez-Sanchez:

We are writing to strongly oppose the location of the proposed substance abuse center, EKAWA LLC., located at 5622 Broadway. This center is set to open at the heart of the Kingsbridge Business Improvement District within the densely populated Kingsbridge community. While we acknowledge that there is a serious opioid crisis across New York City, the placement of this proposed center will be a great hindrance to a community not at the center of this epidemic. It is concerning to know that this location could potentially introduce a problem to a community where there isn't one.

The community and local businesses have worked tirelessly to ensure that the neighborhood continues to flourish and this center would be detrimental to the many efforts that have been made. With a plan of serving at least 150 patients a day, the location of this center is counterproductive to a thriving community that serves local residents, but is also a major shopping hub.

This proposed center is set to open for private insurances only while being placed in a community where a large number of the population are Medicaid recipients. Not only will it create an increase in traffic in a busy corridor, but it has no intention of serving the community where it will be operating. It will also be within less than a three block radius of Spuyten Duyvil Nursery, elementary schools PS 7 & PS 207, St. John's School, as well as more than a handful of other schools located within walking distance.

Lastly, the proposed location is within the confines of the 50th Precinct and would place an unnecessary strain on the officers who work tirelessly to safeguard the community. Any issues that arise at the center will undoubtedly overburden an already understaffed precinct. This would clearly leave other parts of the community vulnerable.

Once again, we strongly oppose the proposed location for the rehab facility.

Thank you,

Andrew Cohen,
Council Member

Jeffrey Dinowitz
Member of Assembly

cc: Kingsbridge Business Improvement District
Community Board 8